

Woodlands and Park Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 10 February 2021, via Zoom, 7.30pm

Present: Ruth Gillett (chair), Tom Johnstone (secretary), Derek Manson-Smith, Clare Crawford (minutes), Alasdair Gerrie, Johnpaul McCabe, Diane Mitchell, Stewart Leighton

In attendance: Councillor Ken Andrew, Councillor Martha Wardrop

1 Apologies: Gerry Doyle, Kay Scott

2 Police Report

It was noted that a police report for January had been sent to the community council's website by PC McGlynn and that Tom Johnstone had attached it to the papers for this meeting. Clare Crawford said that the police reports are not very revealing now that figures are no longer included.

3 Minutes of 13 January Meeting

Tom Johnstone said that under item 9, Correspondence, including Planning and Licensing, lines 31 and 33, he had said 'prescriptive' rather than 'proscriptive' but in the context the difference in meaning is irrelevant so the words need not be changed. Otherwise, the minutes of the meeting were proposed as a correct record by Tom Johnstone, seconded by Derek Manson-Smith.

4 Matters Arising

Derek Manson-Smith said that, as Councillor Wardrop had requested, he had emailed Dave Horsley, who is his contact for Park Terrace residents, and George Hazle of Park Circus to ask if they would consult with their residents to see if anybody had any objections to having a chipper in the Park area to deal with Christmas trees.

5 Councillors' Reports

Councillor Andrew said he had nothing to add that was not already an item on the agenda.

Councillor Wardrop reported that the snow was causing chaos. Kelvin Way needs to be gritted, and more snow is expected the following Saturday. It will disrupt Cleansing operations, which have already been affected by the Covid pandemic. She asked for patience and understanding. In discussion about police reports, it was agreed to ask for more statistics.

6 Millennium Park

Nothing was reported

7 Kelvingrove Park

Councillor Andrew reported that there had been complaints about buskers in the park, with people saying they wanted peace and quiet and to listen to birdsong, not amplified guitar music. He had asked the police about it and was told it was a park matter so he then went to Neighbourhoods and Sustainability who said that as busking is not an illegal activity there is nothing that can be done. When he cited the bylaw that says the park cannot be used for financial gain of any sort, they then said that that was a police matter. Derek Manson-Smith said there is one busker whose music is very good and who attracts big crowds. Ruth Gillett pointed out that quality is not a criterion as some people hate bagpipes yet bagpipers are allowed to practise in the park so it can only be judged on the financial aspect. Councillor Wardrop said that she has been advised that the police are on the case and have fined a busker. The main concern is not to encourage people to gather. Councillor Wardrop also said that there is money from the Arnold Clark Grant Street development to be spent on play equipment but she has not had an update from Parks officers but she will ask for one.

8 Cleansing

Clare Crawford reported that the recycling bin at the top of Woodlands Drive had been reinstated not long after the last community council meeting. Councillor Andrew said that he had reported it the morning after the last meeting and that, although he would like fewer bins as he feels they encourage flytipping, he has been saying to council officers that the frequency of servicing must be improved. Lots of people, rather than going down into their back courts, find it easier to dump recycling in the bins so they fill up very quickly. A lot of the rubbish in the blue bins is plastic bags of general rubbish, not dry recycling, so the quality is very, very poor. One of the issues with the recycling rate is cross-contamination. Councillor Wardrop said that people in West Princes Street

have asked for more bins for recycling. There are some places where there is no access to a back court and no access to a blue bin at the moment. Ruth Gillett said that the street lights in West Princes Street and Montague Street that are not working have not yet been repaired. Councillor Wardrop said she would chase the matter up again. She said that new lights have been put in in Baliol Lane and on Great Western Bridge.

9 Correspondence, including Planning and Licensing

Tom Johnstone reported that new items since the list he had emailed before the meeting include a couple of planning applications that were picked up by Planning Alerts before he received confirmation on the official list. Two more HMO licence renewals, 282 Woodlands Road and 22 Willowbank Crescent, with no planning permission for either, making it 100 per cent no planning permission for all the HMO licence applications. There has been an email from Steven Dowling about free training in Microsoft Teams. In discussion about Teams, Councillor Andrew said that if the community council were to use it, the police would be able to dial in and give a verbal report and council officers would be able to attend meetings. In discussion about Planning Alerts, Derek Manson-Smith said clicking on the red button takes you to the relevant planning application, complete with map. Tom said the application reference number on the official weekly list is now a hyperlink that will go straight to the planning application file on the council's website. He has been able to reserve a place on a webinar set up by Planning Advice Scotland on National Planning Framework 4 to be held on 16 February. Tom said that he had had an email from Jean Charsley of Hillhead Community Council about a plan to block off Bank Street from Great Western Road, which could lead to more drivers using Park Road to get on to Great Western Road. There was discussion about traffic routes. Councillor Wardrop said the residents of Bank Street have done a consultation and there is also interest from Hillhead Primary Parents' Council who are trying to encourage more walking and cycling to the school. There are going to be meetings and the various groups are hoping to draw up a workable plan with a traffic management team at the council. Tom said he would report back to Jean Charsley on this discussion.

10 Finance

Tom Johnstone said he does not have confirmation of his annual Zoom subscription having been accepted and money has been taken for the standard monthly payment for February. He hopes it will be sorted by the end of the month when he can claim from the community council's bank account. More seriously, he had had to reassure Gerry Doyle, who is not well, that he did not have to worry about getting the accounts ready, that Steven Dowling would be very understanding in the circumstances and that he should relax and concentrate on getting better. There was discussion about who the signatories are to the bank account, and Tom said he would check. The community council sent its best wishes to Gerry for a speedy recovery.

11 Electric Charging-points

Councillor Andrew said that he has raised the matter with Neighbourhoods and Sustainability. The only place where one Woodlands resident can get her car charged is on Great Western Road near the junction with Byres Road. He feels that there could be charging-points in the block between Tesco and Park Road and North Woodside Road in Woodside where there are generally few cars parked. Derek Manson-Smith said that according to the radio programme You and Yours, charging-points in Scotland are free whereas in England and Wales you have to pay. Councillor Andrew pointed out that parking has to be paid for. Councillor Wardrop said she is awaiting a response from council officers following enquiries she had made. There is a Frequently Asked Questions section on the council's website which gives quite a lot of information. Since the last meeting they have rolled out more electric bikes and they are promoting car-sharing. There are now Co-wheels cars in Clarendon Place and at the new Woodside Health Centre. Johnpaul McCabe said he has got an electric car because there is a charging-point at the school where he works but a point in Woodlands would be good as his parking permit would not allow him to charge his car in Woodside. In discussion about possible sites for charging-points, Alasdair Gerrie suggested one in Ashley Street, Derek suggested one in the Park Road area at the other end of Woodlands, and Johnpaul suggested one in the Park area, in its own parking area, to form a triangle. Councillor Wardrop said she is nervous about Park Road and any dead-end streets as they tend to get congested. She pointed out that workplaces can get funding for electric charging-points. Queens Cross Housing Association has a Co-wheels electric car available for its tenants and she would talk to Charing Cross Housing Association to see if they have looked into the matter.

12 AOCB

Stewart Leighton suggested that whoever becomes the new MSP for the area be lobbied on the matter of private rented properties, particularly HMOs, which have a damaging impact on the area.

13 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.